



**MEETING SUMMARY
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION (WRAC)
LOWER EAST COAST WATER SUPPLY PLAN (LEC Plan)
ISSUES WORKSHOP
South Florida Water Management District
3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, Florida
June 24, 2004**

Attendees:

Irela Bagué – Chair of LEC Plan Issues Workshop and SFWMD Governing Board Member

WRAC Members:

Christina Casado-Acorn
Harry Cronin

Wayne Daltry
Jim Harvey

Patrick Hayes
Barbara Miedema

WRAC Alternates:

John Adornato
Thomas Bausch
Kelly Brooks

Ruth Clark
Bertha Goldenberg
Larry Harris

Lloyd Hathcock

Interested Parties:

Danna Ackerman White
Kara Baxter
Kristin Bennett
Kelly Brooks
Randy Brown
Beth Carlson-Lewis
Frank Coulter
Richard Curry
Michelle Diffenderfer
Gary Eichler
Rebecca Elliott
Laura Feakes
Linda Ferrell
Mick Finn

Dora Florindo
John Fumero
Mary Ann Gosa
Lorraine Guise
Mike Gvells
Norman Hatch
Kathy Higgins
David Hoot
Isaac Hoyos
Scott Jones
Lisa Interlandi
Joan Lawrence
Patrick Martin
Barb Marx

Linda McCarthy
Callie McMunigal
Dan Meeroff
Vincent Moss
Roy Reynolds
Ingrid Rivera
Jeff Rosenfeld
Sheryl Stolenberg
Tom Swihart
Steve Traxler
Pablo Villafane
Jeff Ward
Paul Webster

SFWMD Staff:

Ashie Akpoji
Henry Bittaker
Scott Burns
Kate Edgerton
Mark Elsner

Yvonne Gsteiger
Linda Hoppes
Jim Jackson
John Mulliken
Davies Mtundu

Michelle Pearcy
Cecile Ross
Rick Smith
Ken Tarboton

1. Welcome by Irela Bagué, Chair, LEC Plan Issues Workshop. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. Chair Bagué addressed the forum for today's meeting and welcomed the public to participate. The Water Resources Advisory Commission (WRAC) staff will facilitate the meeting.

2. Introductions by John Mulliken, Deputy Department Director, Water Supply, SFWMD. Mr. Mulliken provided information on the SFWMD Strategic Programs. The Water Supply Department will have a new Department Director, Carlyn Kowalsky, who will begin in July 2004. He outlined staff members' positions in terms of the overall program. He explained the divisions and projects that staff members are involved in for water supply needs. Jim Jackson is the Lower East Coast Project Manager for the SFWMD.

All attendees introduced themselves and stated their affiliation.

Mr. Mulliken provided information on the past activities of the water supply plans and recognized former members of the committee.

Ms. Bagué said this is an "open meeting" and all comments and questions are welcome at this meeting. Following each presentation there will be opportunities for comments and questions.

3. Statutory Requirements of Water Supply Plans, by Cecile Ross, Sr. Attorney, Office of Counsel.

Ms. Bagué introduced Ms. Ross and spoke briefly on House Bill 715.

Ms. Ross presented information on the landmark legislation in 1997, commonly referred to as House Bill 715. The central mandate (effective development and implementation of water management districts water supply mission) of this bill was reviewed.

The next key step is water supply planning. Information on the regional water supply plan implementation was given. There is a five year Water Resource Development Water Program (WRDWP); the annual budget shall include funds to implement water resource development; and an annual Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) report to the Governor and Legislature on the status of Regional Water Supply Plans (RWSPs).

Information on House Bill 293 was provided. This bill has been sent to the Governor to be signed. This bill covers local governmental comprehensive plans that must address water supply sources to meet existing and projected water use demands considering RWSP. The RWSPs have two major concepts to identify shortfalls. (1) Regional water resource strategies – research, public works and regulation for supporting water supply development; and (2) planning, design, and construction of public or private facilities for water production, treatment and distribution for sale or end use.

Information on implementation of the UEC plan was provided. House Bill 293 has a local government comp plan requirement and they must now address water supply sources to meet existing and projected water use demands considering regional water supply plans. The water management district must conduct at least one workshop on modeling and technical data during updates to RWSPs. The annual Department of Environmental Protection reports must include assessment of progress made in developing water supplies consistent with regional water supply plans.

The five year work plan is extensive. The plan must identify:

- projects that will provide water;
- how each will produce additional water for use;
- estimate quantity of water made available for use; and
- assess contribution of RWSP's in providing water to meet existing and projected reasonable beneficial use.

Questions on water reservations and the needs during the next 20 years were asked and answered. This will be included in the 20 year planning horizon, but when the plan is updated every five years, any new alternatives will be included.

House Bill 293 will become law on July 1 unless the Governor signs the bill earlier. He also has the right to veto the bill.

Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) is based on the water resources, and the requirements on basic information on water resource assessment. This is a component of CERP and this is the way to determine the shortfalls. A water budget requirement in the water supply plans was discussed and the budget is in the LEC Plan. The resource assessment has been done and is in the plan, as well as water supply funding.

Comments made on water reservations. Stakeholders stated that this was a good presentation. Additional presentation on this matter was requested, including the assessment of regional water availability.

Discussion and questions on the service areas in counties in South Florida due to the constant changing parameters in municipalities. The dynamics of the areas to be served will be looked at "now" and the updated version of the plans will be continuous. Jim Jackson provided information on the planning process. Chair Bagué said there is a focus on the District's Service Centers and there are now planners in the Service Centers assisting staff at headquarters.

4. Overview and Accomplishments of the LEC Plan, by Jim Jackson, LEC Project Manager.

Mr. Jackson provided an overview on the accomplishments of the 2000 water supply plan in the Lower East Coast. A map showing the LEC Planning Region was provided.

A comparison of the estimated 1995 and projected 2020 water demands for LEC and the public water supply demands were shown.

The projects included in the 2000 LEC plan are: Water Resource Development Projects and Water Supply Development Projects. Incremental modeling results for the natural areas were shown. Lake Okeechobee service area water restriction information was shown. Information on the water restrictions in three counties (Palm Beach, Broward, and Miami-Dade) was provided.

In summary, incremental modeling showed significant improvements over time for Lake Okeechobee, St. Lucie & Caloosahatchee estuaries and Lake Worth Lagoon, Northern and Southern WCA-3A, and the Holey Land & Rotenberger WMAs. Major improvements will occur in Everglades National Park and Biscayne Bay by 2020. WCA-2B did not achieve restoration targets. Further, incremental models show gradual improvements for urban water supply. It was recognized that water supply development projects would be needed in the interim.

There are 46 recommendations in 8 categories in the LEC Plan. The recommendations and ongoing projects from the LEC Plan were outlined. The presentation conveyed information on the Northern Palm Beach County Comprehensive Water Management Plan that was approved. The presentation contained information on a variety of topics, including Hydrogeologic advances, Miami-Dade utility ASR; other ; Federal, State and District projects; Western C-4 Critical Project; Western C-11 Critical Project; Lake Okeechobee Critical Project; Urban and Agricultural Mobile Irrigation Labs; Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Projects; Recommendations to the CERP from the LEC Plan; Water Supply/Environmental (WSE); WSE Re-evaluation and the current efforts; recommendations to the CERP from the Caloosahatchee Water Management Plan; Caloosahatchee Basin C-43 Storage Project and ASR Pilot Project; Southwest Florida Feasibility Study; Operational Recommendations; Consumptive Use Permitting and Resource Protection Projects; Revised Rules; Other Water Resource Development Projects; Seawater Reverse Osmosis (RO); Reclaimed Water Regional Conveyance System Master Plan for Northern Palm Beach County and Southern Martin County; Water Savings Incentive Program (WaterSIP); and District Conservation Funding Programs to Create Additional Water.

Question and answer session. Page 6 shows the Incremental Modeling Results for the LEC Natural Areas should include the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee. Mr. Mulliken provided information on the lack of a Loxahatchee River Performance Measure. Discussion on the Loxahatchee River and modeling results. Mr. Mulliken will provide a map on the water bodies in the area. The well abandonment program and the funding of this program were discussed. Status of the water reservation and the rule development for initial reservation of the water for the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River was provided. There will be WRAC Issues Workshops scheduled to provide input by interested parties on this subject. Aquifer recharge was discussed.

WRAC workshop in Miami on Biscayne Bay Minimum Flows and Levels will be held on June 25, 2004 and all stakeholders are invited to attend. Minimum flows and levels in estuaries and the inclusion of Charlotte County (Babcock Ranch) were requested to be included in future maps. There are a lot of accomplishments in the current Plan, but it was encouraged that “failures” be listed as well as the “accomplishments”.

Comments on reservations and water allocations were made and the projected demands in the future. In the modeling, assumptions will be made and will be included in the plan. Environmental demands are some of the most important things that need to be figured out. CERP restoration targets will supplement restoration targets. There are significant environmental obligations to the water being used today, in addition to the CERP needs.

Request by a stakeholder to have a “Range of probabilities or possibilities” at the next LEC workshop to show what water has been requested for all users of water in the future. This will allow for the local utilities to plan for their growing demands. Guiding principles and rule development on environmental resource permitting was discussed. Information on alternative resource water supply plans was provided.

5. Public Input Process in the Regional Water Supply Plan Updates, by Michelle Percy, Director, Planning and Implementation Division, SFWMD.

Ms. Percy provided the requirements for the water supply plan. There is a 20 year planning period and a 1 in 10 level of certainty. A plan is a proactive approach to sustain future water resources for supply and natural resources. This provides a tool box of water supply resources. There are four planning regions – Kissimmee Basin, Upper East Coast, Lower East Coast, Lower West Coast and Kissimmee Basin. The existing plan updates schedule was provided.

The WRAC serves as an overall forum to gain consensus to resolve issues. There will be at least five regional planning meetings for each region. Additional workshops can be added along the way as necessary.

The plan process was reviewed, including topics for future meetings. Today is the “Kick Off” meeting and in the future there will be meetings to discuss: demographics and conservation workshop; water reuse and model methodology; modeling workshop; and multiple meetings on model alternatives; and finally a recommendation workshop.

The second workshop on July 28, 2004, will provide for information on the modeling tools that will be used to create/modify the Plan.

Multiple meetings to present initial model results will be starting on August 18, 2004. Staff will report to the full WRAC on October 7, 2004 and to the Governing Board on October 13, 2004. Further meeting dates were provided, including the October 20, 2004 meeting on alternative model runs. At a workshop in April 2005, stakeholders will select preferred alternatives and refine the recommendations. Final review of the draft

Plan and final recommendations on June 29, 2005. Governing Board approval of the Plan will be presented on December 14, 2005.

Comments on the schedule were made. There are a large number of issues to resolve and there will be multiple meetings. Request was made for an agenda topic in the future to be on linkages of operations with what that means for overall operability in the modeling.

Five year resource work plan regarding House Bill 293 and the CERP projects water quantities will be included in the LEC update. The latest schedule will be used for the modeling and will be based on the CERP Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP).

There was consensus agreement that there will be a need for a lot of meetings on the Lower East Coast Regional Water Supply Plan. All the meetings are being videotaped and all presentations will be posted to the web. There was a suggestion that these meetings be webcast or broadcast, but this will not be done. Stakeholder expressed disappointment that the meetings will not be webcast and asked for reconsideration on the decision. Staff said that is very important that all interested parties provide their email address to receive the latest information. Chair Bagué provided additional data on all interested parties acquiring all the information on the LEC meetings and a video-stream may be investigated in order to provide information to stakeholders.

Chair Bagué adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:40 a.m. and reconvene at 1:00 p.m. Chair Bagué reconvened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and reiterated that this is a Public Meeting and all interested parties are welcome to comment.

4. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) Overview and Status, by Lawrence Gerry, Director, CERP Planning and Federal Projects, SFWMD.

Mr. Gerry presented information on this item. This is a very fluid matter at this time and different options are being looked at all the time. The Schedule is a DRAFT and is subject to change.

Topics presented included CERP Overview; MISP Banding; Band 1 – Projects completed by 2010; and Band 2 – Projects completed by 2015.

The overview contained background information on the area from 1947 to the present. Update was given to an overhead regarding the *Unintended Consequences: An Ecosystem in Trouble* to include information on the Loxahatchee River flow.

Information was presented on the CERP joint project between the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District. The cost of the project is estimated to cost \$7.8 billion over 35 years for a total of 68 projects. It will cost \$172 million per year to operate and maintain and \$10 million per year for monitoring and adaptive assessment.

The Master Implementation Sequencing Plan (MISP) and banding were discussed. The “Yellow Book” laid out the initial MISP for CERP. The current draft is the starting point for the development of the MISP update per the programmatic regulations and is the initial starting point for the development of interim goals. Information on the Band 1 projects complete by 2010 was provided by Mr. Gerry.

Presentation contained information on several other projects, including the C-111 Spreader Canal; ASR Pilot Projects; ASR Regional Study; L-31N Seepage Pilot; C-43 Reservoir; C-44 Reservoir; EAA Reservoir, Part 1; Southern Golden Gate Estates; Site 1 (Hillsboro) Impoundment; DECOMP – Tamiami Trail; and Acme Basin B Discharge. Also in the presentation, information on Band 2 – Projects completed by 2015 – North Palm Beach County; North Palm Beach County; EEA Reservoir, Part 2; Lake Okeechobee Watershed; Taylor Creek/Nubbin Slough Storage Treatment Area; Broward WPAs; WCA-3A and 3B levee seepage management; C-9 Impoundment; C-11 impoundment and diversion canal; and Biscayne Bay Coastal Wetlands.

Stakeholder commented that in Broward County, assistance for the WPA project has disappeared. They are losing tens of thousands acre feet of water in Broward County. Shortages and projected shortages were discussed. Mr. Gerry addressed the concerns and provided additional information.

Discussion on why the North Palm Beach County project is in Band 2. Information on seepage and the benefits was provided. Banding that will benefit Miami-Dade County was discussed.

Announcement:

Chair Bagué reviewed the upcoming agenda items. The agenda was revised and Item 7 “Other Related WRAC Workshops” was not presented.

7. Water Supply Program 10 Year Strategic Plan by John Mulliken.

Mr. Mulliken presented information on the *Goals* and *Key Assumptions*.

The SFWMD Governing Board priorities are to build three reservoirs through public/private partnerships; achieve Everglades water quality standards; acquire land for Kissimmee River restoration; reduce phosphorus inputs to Lake Okeechobee; refurbish the regional flood control system; implement water supply plan recommendations; and continue to recognize the value of employees.

The Coastal Watershed Program 10 year strategic goals include: restoring watersheds and estuaries through local initiatives; understanding restoration effects through high quality applied science; and decreasing flood damages through proactive flood management planning.

The CERP program 10 year strategic goal is to restore, preserve and protect South Florida's ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.

The SFWMD Everglades Program for the 10 year strategic goals are to contribute to Everglades restoration by restoring water quality, restoring hydrology and improving planning and operational decisions through applied science.

Information on the Kissimmee Restoration 10 year strategic goals are to restore the ecological integrity of the Kissimmee River flood plain ecosystem; improve water quality, water supply, natural resources and flood control levels; and regulation of the headwater and river system.

Also, the Lake Okeechobee Restoration Program 10 year strategic goals are to improve the health of the Lake Okeechobee ecosystem by improving water quality; reducing exotic species; and better managing Lake levels.

The Land Stewardship Program's 10 year strategic goals are to restore conservation and preservation lands to a natural condition, provide compatible public access, and manage and acquire lands for other programs prior to their intended use.

The Regulation Program 10 year strategic goals are to provide fair, consistent and timely review of permit applications; ensure compliance with issued permits; and take enforcement action where necessary.

Operations and Maintenance Program 10 year strategic goals are to optimally operate and maintain the primary flood control and water supply system.

The Water Supply Program 10 year strategic goal is to ensure an adequate supply of water to protect and enhance natural systems and to meet all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses, while sustaining water resources for future generations. The Key Assumptions were listed and information on the Project List provided. Future water supply funding was identified.

On June 28, 2004 there will be a WRAC Issues Workshop on Lake Okeechobee at the B1 Auditorium, District Headquarters. Copies of the Strategic Plan will be distributed at the next meeting and the Strategic Plan is posted on the District's website.

9. Present Population and Demand Projections, by Carl Woehlcke, Lead Economist, Water Supply, SFWMD.

The information provided was for the purpose of soliciting comments and suggestions. The LEC Planning Region was explained and the information on the water demands in the region was reviewed. Staff is coordinating their efforts among the CERP, LECWSP, and Consumptive Use Permits.

The strategy for water demand projections was explained. Information on the following topics was provided in the presentation: Initial CERP Update; CERP Methodology; ICU Population and Economic Projections; Population Projections for the Lower East Coast; LEC Plan Area Historical and Projected Population; IWR – Main Model; Local Utilities Used in IWR-Main Model Calibration; Passive Conservation Measures; Conservation Measures; Conservation; and Areas Served Were Used to Develop Utility Specific Demand Projections.

A draft map for Broward County Water Utility Boundary areas served for 2000 and 2025 was reviewed. This map has been reviewed by utility companies. Information on the demand for a utility was provided. A graph was shown that reflected the data. A chart showing the comparison of LEC public water supply raw water demands for Palm Beach County; Broward County; and Miami-Dade County was shown.

Areas for review and feedback were shown.

Question and answer session was held with stakeholders. Input was provided on the needs of the counties and future growth. Mr. Woehlcke asked for comments from the stakeholders and asked that they be sent to him within the next month. Topics discussed included population figures; private wells; information on how data is acquired; and differences in population projections, especially in Palm Beach County;

10. Public Comment.

Dean Dickey, representing the City of Sunrise, Sunrise, Florida., spoke on modeling.

Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Irela Bagué
Chair – LEC Plan Issues Workshop

Paula Moree,
Staff Bus. Ops. Analyst, SFWMD